

EDWARDS: \$250 ECONOMIC RECOVERY PAYMENTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS DISTRIBUTED IN MAY

(Washington, DC) – U.S. Representative Chet Edwards announced today that one-time \$250 economic recovery payments for Social Security recipients, provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will begin to be disbursed on May 7. This will result in \$835 million for eligible Texans including \$29 million for eligible District 17 residents.

“In Texas, 2.8 million retirees, disabled veterans, and widowed spouses will be receiving a one-time \$250 payment,” said Rep. Edwards. “These economic recovery payments can make a real difference in the lives of millions of older and disabled Americans – many of whom have been hit especially hard by the economic crisis.”

Recipients of these critical \$250 economic recovery payments are those Americans unlikely to qualify for The Making Work Pay tax cut -- older Americans, disabled veterans, and others. Millions of the Social Security recipients receiving these payments are among the seniors with the lowest average incomes. In addition, by late May and June, payments to recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, as well as disabled veterans and Railroad Retirement recipients, will begin to be disbursed. In total, more than 50 million Americans will get this one-time payment.

“These payments will help millions of Americans meet some of their basic needs in this struggling economy,” said Rep. Edwards. The Making Work Pay tax cut, already being delivered to 8.4 million Texas families, provides a refund of 6.2 percent of earned income up to \$400 for working individuals and \$800 for married taxpayers in 2009 and 2010. This means an estimated \$65 dollar per month increase in their take home pay.